Exception: The vault bottom may be flat if **removable panels** are provided over the entire vault. Removable panels shall be at grade, have stainless steel lifting eyes, and weigh no more than 5 tons per panel.

8. The highest point of a **vault bottom** must be at least 6 inches below the outlet elevation to provide for sediment storage over the entire bottom.
9. Provision for passage of flows should the outlet plug shall be provided.
10. Wetvaults may be constructed using **arch culvert sections** provided the top area at the WQ design water surface is, at a minimum, equal to that of a vault with vertical walls designed with an average depth of 6 feet. If arched culverts are used, the manufacturer must certify that they are water-tight.

    Intent: To prevent decreasing the surface area available for oxygen exchange.
11. Wetvaults shall conform to the **"Materials"** and **"Structural Stability"** criteria specified for **detention vaults** in Section 5.3.3.
12. Where pipes enter and leave the vault below the WQ design water surface, they shall be **sealed** using a non-porous, non-shrinking grout.

Inlet and Outlet

1. The **inlet** to the wetvault shall be submerged with the inlet pipe invert a minimum of 3 feet from the vault bottom (not including sediment storage). The top of the inlet pipe shall be submerged at least 1 foot. *Note: These dimensional requirements may increase the minimum 4 foot depth of the first cell, depending on the size of the inlet pipe.*

   Intent: The submerged inlet is to dissipate energy of the incoming flow. The distance from the bottom is to minimize resuspension of settled sediments. Alternative inlet designs that accomplish these objectives are acceptable.
2. Unless designed as an off-line facility, the capacity of the **outlet pipe** and available head above the outlet pipe shall be designed to convey the 100-year design flow for developed ***site*** conditions (as described in Section 5.3.4.2) without overtopping the vault. The available head above the outlet pipe must be a minimum of 6 inches.
3. The outlet pipe shall be back-sloped or have tee section, the lower arm of which shall extend 1 foot below the WQ design water surface to provide for trapping of oils and floatables in the vault.
4. A **gravity drain** for maintenance shall be provided if grade allows.

   a) The gravity drain should be as low as the ***site*** situation allows; however, the **invert** shall be no lower than the average sediment storage depth. At a minimum, the invert shall be 6 inches above the base elevation of the vault side walls.

      Intent: This placement prevents highly sediment-laden water from escaping when the vault is drained for maintenance. A lower placement is allowed than for wetponds since the v-shaped vault bottom will capture and retain additional sediments.

   b) The drain shall be 8 inches (minimum) diameter and shall be controlled by a valve. Use of a shear gate is allowed only at the inlet end of a pipe located within an approved structure.

      Intent: Shear gates often leak if water pressure pushes on the side of the gate opposite the seal. The gate should be situated so that water pressure pushes toward the seal.

   c) Operational access to the valve shall be provided to the finished ground surface. The valve location shall be accessible and well marked with one foot of paving placed around the box. It must also be protected from damage and unauthorized operation.

   d) If not located in the vault, a valve box is allowed to a maximum depth of 5 feet without an access manhole. If over 5 feet deep, an access manhole is required.

Access Requirements

Same as for detention vaults (see Section 5.3.3) except for the following additional requirement for wetvaults:

A minimum of 50 square feet of **grate** shall be provided over the second cell. For vaults in which the surface area of the second cell is greater than 1,250 square feet, 4% of the total surface area shall be grated. This requirement may be met by one grate or by many smaller grates distributed over the second cell area. If the vault is a single cell, ventilation shall be provided over the second half of the vault. *Note: a grated access door may be used to meet this requirement.*

Intent: The grate allows air contact with the wetpool in order to minimize stagnant conditions that can result in oxygen depletion, especially in warm weather.

Access Roads, Right of Way, and Setbacks

Same as for detention vaults (see Section 5.3.3).

Recommended Design Features

The following design features should be incorporated into wetvaults where feasible, but they are not specifically required:

1. The floor of the second cell should slope toward the outlet for ease of cleaning.
2. The **inlet and outlet** should be at opposing corners of the vault to increase the flowpath.
3. A **flow length-to-width** ratio greater than 3:1 minimum is desirable.
4. **Lockable grates** instead of solid manhole covers are recommended to increase air contact with the wetpool.
5. **Galvanized materials** should be avoided whenever possible.
6. The **number of inlets** to the wetvault should be limited, and the flowpath length should be maximized from inlet to outlet for all inlets to the vault.

Construction Considerations

Sediment that has accumulated in the vault must be removed after construction in the drainage area is complete. If no more than 12 inches of sediment have accumulated after the infrastructure is built, cleaning may be left until after building construction is complete. In general, sediment accumulation from stabilized drainage areas is not expected to exceed an average of 4 inches per year in the first cell. If sediment accumulation is greater than this amount, it will be assumed to be from construction unless it can be shown otherwise. The County will not release maintenance and defect financial guarantees or assume maintenance responsibility for a facility unless it has been cleaned of construction phase sediments.

Maintenance Considerations

1. Accumulated sediment and stagnant conditions may cause noxious gases to form and accumulate in the vault.
2. Facilities should be inspected annually. Floating debris and accumulated petroleum products shall be removed as needed, but at least annually. The floating oil shall be removed from wetvaults used as oil/water separators when oil accumulation exceeds one inch.
3. Sediment should be removed when the 1-foot (average) sediment zone is full thus 6 inches. Sediments should be tested for toxicants in compliance with current disposal requirements if land uses in the catchment include commercial or industrial zones, or if visual or olfactory indications of pollution are noticed.

- Fourth layer: underdrain system.

Sand Specifications

The sand in a filter shall consist of a medium sand with few fines meeting the size gradation (by weight) given in Table 6.5.2.C. The contractor must obtain a grain size analysis from the supplier to certify that the No. 100 and No. 200 sieve requirements are met. *Note: Many sand mixes supplied locally meet this specification. However, standard backfill for sand drains (as specified in the Washington Standard Specifications 9-03.13) does not meet this specification and shall not be used for sand filters.*

TABLE 6.5.2.C SAND MEDIA SPECIFICATIONS

U.S. Sieve Size	Percent passing
U.S. No. 4	95 to 100 percent
U.S. No. 8	70 to 100 percent
U.S. No. 16	40 to 90 percent
U.S. No. 30	25 to 75 percent
U.S. No. 50	2 to 25 percent
U.S. No. 100	Less than 4 percent
U.S. No. 200	Less than 2 percent

Geotextile Materials

Geotextile material requirements are summarized in Table 6.5.2.D (below).

TABLE 6.5.2.D GEOTEXTILE SPECIFICATIONS

Geotextile Property	Value	Test Method
Grab Tensile Strength, min in machine and x-direction	250 lbs/160 lbs min.	ASTM D4632
Grab Failure Strain, in machine and x-machine direction	<50%/>50%	ASTM D4632
Seam Breaking Strength (if seams are present)	220 lbs/140 lbs min.	ASTM D4632 and ASTM D4884 (adapted for grab test)
Puncture Resistance	80 lbs/50 lbs min.	ASTM D4833
Tear Strength, min. in machine and x-machine direction	80 lbs/50 lbs min.	ASTM D4533
Ultraviolet (UV) Radiation stability	50% strength min., after 500 hrs. in weather meter	ASTM D4355
AOS	0.43 mm max. (#40 sieve)	ASTM D4751
Water Permittivity	0.5 sec – 1 min.	ASTM D4491

Notes:

- Minimum values should be in the weaker principal direction. All numerical values represent minimum average roll value (i.e., test results from any sampled lot shall meet or exceed the minimum values in the table). Stated values are for noncritical and nonsevere applications.
- AOS: Apparent Opening Size is the measure of the diameter of the pores on the geotextile.

Underdrain Systems

1. Several **underdrain systems** are acceptable:

   - A central collector pipe with lateral feeder pipes in an 8-inch drain rock bed
   - A central collector pipe with a geotextile drain strip in an 8-inch drain rock bed
   - Longitudinal pipes in an 8-inch drain rock bed, with a collector pipe at the outlet end.

   In smaller installations a single perforated pipe in 8 inches of drain rock may be adequate.

2. The **maximum perpendicular distance** between any two feeder pipes, or the edge of the filter and a feeder pipe, shall be 15 feet.

   Intent: This spacing is required to prevent the underdrain system from backing up into the sand filter during the early life of the filter when high filtration rates exist.

3. All pipe shall be placed with a **minimum slope** of 0.5 %.

4. The **invert of the underdrain outlet** shall be above the seasonal high groundwater level. The *seasonal high groundwater level* is the highest elevation of groundwater observed.

   Intent: The underdrain must be able to remove standing water from beneath the sand. If standing water remains, the sand will remain saturated. This could cause depletion of dissolved oxygen and reducing conditions in the sand, allowing some pollutants to become mobile and be released from the filter to downstream receiving waters.

5. **Cleanout** wyes with caps or junction boxes shall be provided at both ends of all collector pipes. Cleanouts shall extend to the surface of the filter.

   a) A valve box must be provided for access to the cleanouts.

   b) The cleanout assembly must be water tight to prevent short circuiting of the filter.

   Intent: Caps are required on cleanout wyes to prevent short-circuiting of water into the underdrain system when the pond fills with water.

6. If a **drain strip** is used for lateral drainage, the strip must be placed at the slope specified by the manufacturer but at least at 0.5%. All drain strip must extend to the central collector pipe. Drain strips installations must be analyzed for conveyance because manufactured products vary in the amount of flow they are designed to handle.

7. At least 8 inches of drain rock must be maintained over all underdrain piping or drain strip, and 6 inches must be maintained on either side to prevent damage by heavy equipment during maintenance.

   Note: If drain strip is used, it may be easier to install the central collector pipe in an 8-inch ***trench*** *filled with drain rock, making the cover over the drain strip and the collector pipe the same thickness. In this case the pipe shall be wrapped with geotextile to prevent clogging. Use the same geotextile specification as given in* Table 6.5.2.D*, Page 6-1.*

8. A **geotextile fabric** shall be used between the sand layer and the drain rock and be placed so that one inch of drain rock is above the fabric.

   Intent: The position of the geotextile fabric provides a **transition layer** of mixed sand and drain rock. A distinct layer of finely textured sand above a coarser one may cause water to pool at the interface and not readily drain downward due to the greater capillary forces in the finer material.

Underdrain Materials

1. Underdrain **pipe** shall be minimum 6 inch diameter perforated PVC, SDR 35. One acceptable specification for perforations is as follows: 2 rows of holes ($^1/_2$-inch diameter) spaced 6 inches apart longitudinally (max), with rows 120 degrees apart (laid with holes downward). Other drain pipe may be used if it adequately drains the filter.

2. **Drain rock** shall be $1^1/_2$ to $^3/_4$ -inch rock, washed and free from clay or organic material.
3. If a geotextile drain strip system is used, the attached **geotextile fabric** should not be used, or the fabric side should be positioned away from the sand blanket. Geotextile is already required between the sand and drain rock layers, and must meet the specifications in Table 6.5.2.D (p. 6-1) to avoid clogging the filter prematurely.

Access Roads & Setbacks

1. An access road shall be provided to the inlet and outlet of a sand filter for inspection and maintenance purposes. Requirements for access roads are the same as for detention ponds (see Section 5.3.1.1, "Design of Access Roads" and "Construction of Access Roads").
2. The location of the facility relative to ***site*** constraints (e.g., buildings, property lines, etc.) shall be the same as for detention ponds (see Section 5.3.1). See Section 6.2.3 (p. 6-1) for typical setback requirements for WQ facilities.

Grass Cover

1. **No top soil** shall be added to sand filter beds because fine-grained materials (e.g., silt and clay) reduce the hydraulic capacity of the filter.
2. **Growing grass** will require selecting species that can tolerate the demanding environment of the sand bed. Sand filters experience long periods of saturation during the winter wet season, followed by extended dry periods during the summer. Modeling predicts that sand filters will be dry about 60 percent of the time in a typical year. Consequently, vegetation must be capable of surviving drought as well as wetness.
    - The grasses and plants listed in Table 6.5.2.E (below) are good choices for pond sides. They are facultative (i.e., they can tolerate fluctuations in soil water). These species can generally survive approximately 1 month of submersion while dormant in the winter (until about February 15), but they can withstand only about 1 to 2 weeks of submersion after mid-February.
    - The lower portion of Table 6.5.2.E lists grass species that are good choices for the sand filter bottom. They can withstand summer drying and are fairly tolerant of infertile soils. In general, planting a mixture of 3 or more species is recommended. This ensures better coverage since tolerance of the different species is somewhat different, and the best adapted grasses will spread more rapidly than the others. Legumes, such as clover, fix nitrogen and hence can thrive in low-fertility soils such as sands. This makes them particularly good choices for planting the sand filter bed.
3. To prevent overuse that could compact and potentially damage the filter surface, **permanent structures** (e.g., playground equipment or bleachers) are not permitted. Temporary structures or equipment must be removed for filter maintenance.
4. If the sand filter is located in a Sensitive Lake Protection Area, low phosphorus **fertilizers** (such as formulations in the proportion 3: 1: 3 N-P-K or less) or a slow-release phosphorus formulation such as rock phosphate or bone meal should be used.

Recommended Design Features

The following design features should be incorporated into sand filter designs where ***site*** conditions allow:

1. A **horticultural specialist** should be consulted for advice on planting.
2. **Seed** should be applied in spring or mid to late fall unless irrigation is provided. If the filter is seeded during the dry summer months, surface irrigation is needed to ensure that the seeds germinate and survive. Seed should be applied at 80 lbs/acre.
3. Slow-release **fertilizers** may be applied to improve germination; however, see requirements above for sensitive lake protection areas.

4. A sand filter can add landscape interest and should be incorporated into the project **landscape design**. Interior side slopes may be stepped with flat areas to provide informal seating with a game or play area below. Perennial beds may be planted above the overflow water surface elevation. However, large shrubs and trees are not recommended because shading limits evaporation and can inhibit drying of the filter surface. In addition, falling leaves and needles can clog the filter surface, requiring more frequent maintenance. *Note: Examples of areas with stepped side slopes can be found at the Ballard Locks in Seattle and at Luther Burbank Park on Mercer Island.*

5. If **recreational use** is intended, such as for a badminton or volleyball play area, the interior side slopes of the filter embankment should be no steeper than 3:1 and may be stepped as shown in Figure 6.5.2.C (p. 6-1). Drainage tracts may be credited for up to 50 percent of the onsite recreation space requirement under certain conditions. Refer to King County Code 21A.14.180.D for recreation requirements (see Section 5.3.1.2).

the width of the sand filter. The downstream lip of the sump shall be no more than 8 inches above the top of the sand bed.

5. Flows shall enter the sand bed by **spilling over the top of the wall into a flow spreader pad**, or alternatively a **pipe and manifold system** may be designed and approved at the discretion of DDES to deliver water through the wall to the flow spreader. *Note: Water in the first or presettling cell is dead storage. Any pipe and manifold system designed must retain the required dead storage volume in the first cell, minimize turbulence, and be readily maintainable.*
6. If a pipe and manifold system is used, the **minimum pipe size** shall be 8 inches. Multiple inlets are recommended to minimize turbulence and reduce local flow velocities.
7. **Erosion protection** shall be provided along the first foot of the sand bed adjacent to the spreader. Geotextile weighted at the corners with sand bags, quarry spalls, or other suitable erosion control may be used.

Overflow and Bypass Structures

Same as for sand filters (see page 6-1).

Filter Composition

The filter bed shall consist of three layers as follows:

- Top layer: sand
- Second layer: geotextile fabric
- Third layer: underdrain system.

Sand Specifications and Geotextile Materials

Same as for sand filters (see page 6-1).

Underdrain Systems and Underdrain Materials

Same as for sand filters (see page 6-1).

Vault Structure

1. Sand filter vaults are typically designed as on-line (flow-through) systems with a flat bottom under the filter bed.
2. If a presettling cell is provided, the **cell bottom** may be longitudinally level or inclined toward the inlet. To facilitate sediment removal, the bottom shall also slope from each side towards the center at a minimum of 5%, forming a broad "v." *Note: More than one "v" may be used to minimize cell depth.*

   Exception: The bottom of the presettling cell may be flat rather than v-shaped if **removable panels** are provided over the entire presettling cell. Removable panels shall be at grade, have stainless steel lifting eyes, and weigh no more than 5 tons per panel.
3. One foot (average) of **sediment storage** must be provided in the presettling cell.
4. Where pipes enter and leave the presettling cell below the WQ design water surface, they shall be **sealed** using a non-porous, non-shrinking grout.
5. If an **oil retaining baffle** is used for control of floatables in the presettling cell, it must conform to the following:

   a) The baffle shall extend from 1 foot above to 1 foot below the WQ design water surface (minimum requirements) and be spaced a minimum of 5 feet horizontally from the inlet.

   b) Provision for passage of flows in the event of plugging shall be provided.

c) An access opening and ladder shall be provided on both sides of the baffle into the presettling cell.

6. Sand filter vaults shall conform to the **"Materials"** and **"Structural Stability"** criteria specified for **detention vaults** in Section 5.3.3.

7. The **arch culvert sections** allowed for wetvaults **shall not be used** for sand filter vaults. Free access to the entire sand bed is needed for maintenance.

Access Requirements

Same as for **detention vaults** (see Section 5.3.3) except for the following **modifications:**

1. For facilities maintained by King County, removable panels must be provided over the entire sand bed. Panels shall be at grade, have stainless steel lifting eyes, and weigh no more than 5 tons per panel. Concrete bridge decking or industrial decking are options. If within the roadway, the panels must meet the traffic loading requirements of the King County road standards.

2. A minimum of 24 square feet of ventilation grate must be provided for each 250 square feet of sandbed surface area. Grates may be located in one area if the sand filter is small, but placement at each end is preferred. Small grates may also be dispersed over the entire sand bed.

   Intent: Grates are important to allow air exchange above the sand. Poor air exchange will hasten anoxic conditions which may result in release of pollutants such as phosphorus and metals and cause objectionable odors.

Access Roads, Right of Way, and Setbacks

Same as for detention vaults (see Section 5.3.3).

Recommended Design Features

The following design features should be incorporated into sand filter vaults where feasible but are not specifically required:

1. The **floor of the presettling cell** should be **sloped toward the inlet** to allow for sediment accumulation and ease of cleaning.

2. A **geotextile fabric** is recommended over the sand bed to make sand bed maintenance easier. If used, the geotextile should be a flexible, high-permeability, three-dimensional matrix of the kind commonly used for erosion control. Sand bags should be used at 10 to 15 foot intervals to hold the geotextile in place.

3. **Additional grates** are recommended instead of solid panels to increase air contact with the sand bed.

Construction Considerations

Same as for sand filters (see page 6-1) plus, upon completion of installation, the vault shall be thoroughly cleaned and flushed prior to placement of sand and drain rock.

Maintenance Considerations

Maintenance considerations for sand filter vaults are similar to those described for sand filters (see p. 6-1). Maintenance practices need to be modified somewhat due to the sand filter being in a vault, including the use of safe confined space entry procedures.